

P.O. Box 2829
Maryville Gardens Station
St. Louis, Missouri 63111
April 9, 1990

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

Thanks for sending me the information on the H. M. Brown counterstamp. Would you mind if I published the counterstamp in the Missouri Journal with credit, of course, to you?

Some new information has been added. See if this would be acceptable. Make any changes you wish.

AN UNLISTED COUNTERSTAMP

The counterstamp, H. M. Brown / St. Louis Mo, appears on a worn 1803 half dollar which was probably a personal pocket piece. The quest for its origin produced the following information. H. M. Brown was listed in two St. Louis city directories as a gunsmith living at 26 1/2 Olive (1838-1839) and 28 Olive (1840-1841). The Census of 1840 revealed that Henry M. Brown was aged between 20 and 30, self-employed in "manufactures and trades" and married to a woman aged between 15 and 20. They had a daughter under the age of 6. Henry M. Brown owned a female slave aged between 10 and 24.

The Census of 1850 indicates that H. M. Brown may have suffered some personal tragedies. He no longer owned a slave and there was no record of his daughter. Although he was still a gunsmith, he seems to have married a second time. (The 1850 census indicates that he had married within the previous year.) His wife, Martha A. Brown, was 27 years old and a native Missourian. Henry M. was recorded as 36 years old and born in New York. A one-year old son, Olly F. Brown, was probably named for Olly Williams, a 61 year-old farmer. Brown's family lived with Olly and Mary J. Williams (Brown's in-laws?) on their farm in the 82nd district of St. Louis County.

Information for this article was supplied by Eric P. Newman.

Sincerely,

Mike Pfefferkorn
Mike Pfefferkorn

832-6462

P.O. Box 2829
Maryville Gardens Station
St. Louis, Missouri 63111
April 21, 1990

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

The census data read as follows:

1840 - Henry M. Brown	gunsmith				
(remaining data indicated by a numeral)					
male (white)	20-30				1
female (white)	15-20				1
female (white)	under 5				1
female slave	10-24				1
# employed in manufactures & trades					1
1850 - Henry M. Brown	(St. Co.	82nd District #450)			
Henry M. Brown	gunsmith	36	(white) male	(NY?)*	
Martha A. Brown		29	(white) female	Mo.	
Ollie F. Brown		1	(white) male	Mo.	

* married within the last year.
listed with the following:

Williams, Ollie	farmer	61	(white) male	Va.
Williams, Mary J.		61	(white) female	Ky.

I did not check the Brown, Henry listings in the index to the 1860 census. The Henry M. Brown listing in 1860 is a false trail. If Henry Brown does not show up, Martha Brown, Ollie Williams and Mary J. Williams should be traced. I further recommend that you check the cemetery records available at the Mormon genealogy library branch in Frontenac.

I am looking forward to your article.

Sincerely,

Mike Pfefferkorn
Mike Pfefferkorn

10-1 7-10

Mormon
993-2328

From: Thomas D. Serfass, Curator
Mercantile Money Museum
Mercantile Tower
St. Louis, Mo. 63101

Mike Pfefferkorn
P.O. Box 2829
Maryville Gardens Station
St. Louis, Mo. 63111

August 1, 1990

This is a revision of Henry Brown's write-up.

AN UNLISTED ST. LOUIS COUNTERSTAMP

*John Pfefferkorn
John Pfefferkorn
John Pfefferkorn*
The counterstamp, H.M. Brown / St. Louis Mo, appears in a worn 1803 U.S. half dollar. This apparently is the earliest date of a U. S. coin with a Missouri counterstamp. H.M. Brown was listed in St. Louis City directories as a gunsmith working and living at 26-1/2 Olive (1838-1839) and 28 Olive (1840-1841). He moved in 1842 to Oak St. between 2nd & 3rd. The Federal Census of 1840 showed that Henry M. Brown was self-employed in "manufactures and trades". His occupation as gunsmith provides insight into the counterstamp's purpose. It was made to stamp the maker's identification on guns. The stamp ~~might~~ also ^{was used} ~~have been employed~~ to counterstamp coins for advertising his business. The Census also revealed that he owned a female slave between the ages of 10 and 24.

*1849 Census
any 1857*
The personal history of Henry M. Brown and his family is fragmented. He emigrated to St. Louis from either New York or Kentucky (The Census taker's poor handwriting obscured this fact). He lived in St. Louis from 1838 through at least 1841. He married fifteen year old Martha Ann Williams on May 2, 1838 when he was

twenty four years old. Martha was a Missouri native whose parents, Olly and Mary J. Williams owned a farm in St. Louis county. Olly Williams had emigrated from Ireland and Mary from Virginia.

Henry and his wife Martha had a daughter under the age of 5 when the 1840 Census was taken. She is not included in the detailed 1850 Census. The Browns also had a son, Olly Brown, who was one year old when the 1850 Census was taken. Since there is no record of the Browns in any City directory after 1842 nor are they listed in the St. Louis City Census for either 1847 or 1849, it seems reasonable to assert the Browns moved from St. Louis City sometime after 1841. In 1850, however, they are living with Martha's parents in the 82nd district of St. Louis County. There is no information about when they moved there, but Henry is still listed in the 1850 Federal Census as a gunsmith. The ties to the Williams side of the family were strong enough that the Browns named their son after Martha's father. Perhaps they all prospered in St. Louis County on the Williams' farm.

